

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 4: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. PORTUGAL: GONCALVES' POSITION IN MILITARY ERODES

EMBASSY LISBON VIEWS FABIAO'S AND CARVALHO'S SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS AS AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE ANTUNES-CARVALHO GROUP WITHIN THE MILITARY IN ANTICIPATION OF A SHOWDOWN WITH GONCALVES. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS:

--MEETINGS WITH AFM DELEGATES OUTSIDE LISBON IN EFFECT GO OVER THE HEAD OF THE LEFTIST-DOMINATED AFM ASSEMBLY.

--FABIAO'S "UNITY" APPEAL SOUNDS LIKE THE WORDS OF A PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE.

--VICE PREMIER METELO'S TELEVISION APPEAL IN GONCALVES' BEHALF IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF DESPERATE EFFORTS TO SAVE THE PRIME MINISTER.

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THE DETACHMENT OF VARIOUS MILITARY UNITS FROM COPCON, THE EMBASSY SPECULATES, MAY REFLECT THE DESIRE OF THE VARIOUS CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR DIRECT CONTROL, OR IT MAY INDICATE THEIR PERSONAL DISTASTE FOR CARVALHO AND OTHERS WITHIN THE ANTI-GONCALVES GROUP.

(SEE ITEM ONE OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.)

2. SYRIA/JORDAN COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT CHANGE MUCH

FOLLOWING KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO SYRIA, EMBASSY AMMAN COMMENTS THAT THE KING, WHILE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, HAS SO FAR RETAINED THE FINAL AUTHORITY TO DECIDE THE EXTENT TO WHICH JORDAN WILL COOPERATE WITH SYRIA IN MILITARY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE AUGUST 23 JOINT COMMUNIQUE:

--HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR A GENERAL MIDEAST SETTLEMENT BUT DOES NOT CONDEMN THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH;

--WHILE ANNOUNCING FORMATION OF MACHINERY TO COORDINATE FOREIGN POLICY IGNORES SUCH SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS OF COMMON INTEREST AS ISRAEL/UN AND THE PLO IN JORDAN.

PRIME MINISTER RIFAI ASSURED AMBASSADOR PICKERING THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ONLY FINE ARAB RHETORIC AND DENIED UPI'S ASSERTION THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD FORMED A JOINT MILITARY COMMAND.

(SEE SPECIAL ANALYSIS IN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

3. IRAQI LEADER RULES OUT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SYRIA

SADDAM HUSSEIN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE IRAQI REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL, SAID TODAY IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A BEIRUT WEEKLY THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SYRIA. HUSSEIN:

--DECLARED THAT NOT EVEN A RESOLUTION OF THE EUPHRATES WATER DISPUTE WOULD EASE TENSIONS;

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--HINTED AT POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE DAMASCUS GOVERNMENT.

4. YUGOSLAVIA WILL PUSH FOR GREATER NONALIGNED ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC STATED AUGUST 20 THAT AT LIMA YUGO-

SLAVIA WILL PROPOSE THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL GROUP OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. EMBASSY BELGRADE REPORTS THAT THE YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE:

--THE NONALIGNED GROUP COULD PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN FUTURE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENTS; BUT

--THE IMMEDIATE GOAL IS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

5. ARGENTINA PLUNGES DEEPER INTO CRISIS

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT TENSIONS IN THE ARMED FORCES ARE FAST REACHING THE BOILING POINT FOLLOWING MRS. PERON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY OF AN ACTIVE DUTY COLONEL.

--WHILE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LAPLANE, THE SENIOR MILITARY COS, APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT, THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE, AND A MAJORITY OF THE ARMY COMMANDERS, ARE OPPOSED.

--FOREIGN MINISTER ROBLEDO HAS APPARENTLY SUGGESTED LAPLANE RESIGN IN ORDER TO EASE MILITARY TENSIONS.

--THE MILITARY DISSIDENTS HAVE DEMANDED THE CRISIS BE RESOLVED BY AUGUST 25.

ONLY THE RESIGNATIONS OF COLONEL DAMASCO AND GENERAL

LAPLANE WILL LIKELY END THIS CRISIS. HOWEVER, WITH THE BACKING OF MRS. PERON, THEY ARE SEEKING THE DISSIDENT'S DISMISSAL.

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6. BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH: LOCUS OF POWER STILL UNCERTAIN

ONE WEEK AFTER THE SLAYING OF SHEIKH MUJIB AND HIS FAMILY, CONTENDING FORCES WITHIN THE MILITARY ARE IMPEDING A RETURN TO NORMALITY IN BANGLADESH. THE CHIEF ACTORS ARE:

--THE HANDFUL OF MAJORS WHO PERPETRATED THE COUP, AND THE TROOPS THEY CONTROL; AND

--THE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY, WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO RESUME POWER WITHIN THE ARMY.

WHILE ANXIOUS TO EXPAND THEIR AUTHORITY, THE MAJORS SEEM UNCERTAIN HOW TO PROCEED. THE SENIOR OFFICERS, MEANWHILE, ARE PLAYING A WAITING GAME AND APPEAR TO BE WINNING:

--SO FAR THEY HAVE ACCOMMODATED THE MAJORS, PARTICULARLY IN DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY VIS-A-VIS THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.

--THEY ANTICIPATE HOWEVER THAT THE EXTENDED BACKLASH OF PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE MURDERS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY BUT MUST AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE MILITARY.

SOVIETS ACCEPT NEW BANGLADESH REGIME
B. SOVIETS ACCEPT NEW BANGLADESH REGIME

IN THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE BANGLADESH COUP, A PRAVDA "OBSERVER" ARTICLE INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE:

--LAVISHLY PRAISES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MUJIB GOVERNMENT AND URGES MUSHTAQUE TO CONTINUE THESE POLICIES;

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--REFRAINS FROM IMPLICATING OUTSIDE (US, PAKISTANI, OR CHINESE) FORCES IN THE COUP.

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT SOVIET FAR EAST SPECIALIST KAPITSA INDICATED THAT MOSCOW WOULD CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD NOT ISSUE A FORMAL STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE THE SOVIETS ARE WORRIED ABOUT CHINESE INFLUENCE IN BANGLADESH, THEY ARE NOT YET READY TO GO PUBLIC.

7. SPAIN PREPARES TOUGH NEW ANTI-TERRORIST LAW

SPAIN'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET AUGUST 22 TO CONSIDER A NEW ANTI-TERRORIST DECREE. ALTHOUGH THE TEXT OF THE LAW IS STILL UNAVAILABLE, EMBASSY MADRID REPORTS THAT THE LAW IS EXPECTED TO BE A TOUGH ONE, EXPEDITING THE PROSECUTION OF TERRORISTS AND PROVIDING STRICT PENALTIES FOR THOSE WHO AID THEM. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS:

--THE MEETING WAS PRESIDED OVER BY A "VERY ACTIVE" FRANCO.

--PRIME MINISTER ARIAS WAS MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND APPEARS SAFE IN HIS POSITION, DESPITE RUMORS THAT HE IS ON THE WAY OUT.

--GOS SPOKESMEN HINTED AT A CRACKDOWN ON THE MEDIA AS PART OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN.

8. GREECE CONDEMNS PAPADOPOULOS TO DEATH, BUT MAY COMUTE SENTENCE - - -

FORMER GREEK DICTATOR GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS AND TWO COLLEAGUES WERE CONVICTED OF INSURRECTION AND HIGH TREASON AND SENTENCED TO DEATH TODAY BY AN ATHENS COURT. THE GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED THAT IT MAY COMMUTE THE SENTENCES. FORMER STRONGMAN DIMITRIOS IOANNIDES WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

9. SOVIETS SEE PRC INFLUENCE WANING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
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THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR CONFIDED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW SOVIET FAR EAST SPECIALIST KAPITSA'S VIEWS THAT VIETNAMESE INFLUENCE IN INDOCHINA IS INCREASING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CHINESE. KAPITSA ALSO BELIEVES:

--CAMBODIA: DESPITE THE HOOPLA SURROUNDING KHIEU SAMPAN'S PEKING VISIT, CHINESE INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA IS DECREASING; KHIEU SAMPAN IS ACTUALLY NOT AN IMPORTANT FIGURE SINCE THE REAL POWERS HAVE NOT YET SURFACED PUBLICLY.

--VIETNAM: SOVIET INFLUENCE IS ON THE UPSWING AND THE CHINESE ARE NERVOUS ABOUT THE POWERFUL UNIFIED VIETNAM THEY EXPECT TO EMERGE WITHIN THREE YEARS.

--LAOS: A BATTLE OF INFLUENCE IS GOING ON BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM, WITH THE PATHET LAO LEANING TOWARD THE VIETNAMESE.
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